

REMARKS

Initially, it is noted that this Preliminary Amendment is in the newly approved revised format of amendments, such that a complete listing of claims is included and each section begins on a separate page of this paper.

Claims 1-8 have been cancelled and Claims 9-11 and 15 have been amended by the foregoing amendments. New Claims 16-19 have been added by the foregoing amendments. Accordingly, Claims 9-19 are pending in the present divisional patent application.

It is noted that Claims 1-8 have been cancelled because they are directed to an invention elected for prosecution in the parent application (i.e., U.S. Application No. 10/165,065, filed June 7, 2002) which was recently allowed. Claims 9 and 10 have been amended to be in independent form due to the aforementioned cancellation of Claim 1 from which they originally depended. Accordingly, each of Claims 9 and 10 now include all of the features recited in cancelled base Claim 1, in addition to their original subject matter. New Claims 16 and 17 are similar to original Claim 2 and depend from amended independent Claims 9 and 10, respectively. New Claim 18 includes the subject matter of original Claims 9 and 11. Similarly, new Claim 19 includes the subject matter of original claims 10 and 11. Thus, it is believed that new Claims 16-19 do not include any new matter. Claims 11 and 15 have been amended solely for the purpose of correcting typographical errors found in these claims upon review.

Lastly, by the foregoing amendments, the specification of the present divisional application has been amended to include the required cross-reference to related

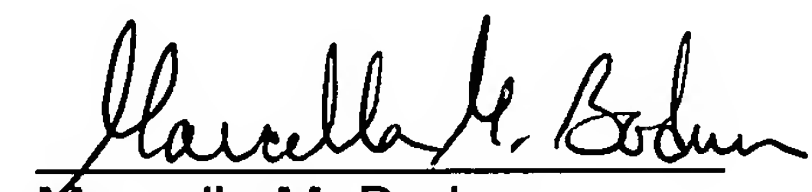
applications, whereby the present divisional application claims priority benefit from the non-provisional parent application under 35 U.S.C. § 120, as well as from the provisional application relied upon by the parent application under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

In view of the foregoing remarks and explanation, it is believed that no new matter has been introduced into the present application by the foregoing amendments.

Accordingly, early and favorable action on the present application is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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